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Congress of the United States
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June 24, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write today to support the nomination of Judge Arenda Wright Allen, one of three individuals recommended by Senator Mark Warner and Senator Tim Kaine for consideration to fill the upcoming vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit that will be created when Judge Barbara M. Keenan assumes senior status in August 2021.

Simply put, Judge Allen reflects the best of America and is exceptionally qualified to serve on this court. She has shown a deep commitment to our community in the Commonwealth of Virginia and will bring much needed diversity to the Court.

Judge Allen has spent her entire legal career in public service, beginning with her service as a JAG officer in the Navy. Following her military service, she spent 14 years serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and one year in the Western District of Virginia. She then became a Federal public defender in Norfolk, serving as Assistant Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia from 2005-2011. Since 2011, she has served with distinction as a U.S. District Court Judge in the Norfolk division of the Eastern District of Virginia. She is the first African American woman to have been appointed a District Judge in Virginia.

Her experience as a public servant, in particular as a public defender, would bring a unique perspective to the Court, and ensure diversity on the bench. Unfortunately, those with these experiences have historically been underrepresented on the federal bench.

As you consider your nomination for this upcoming vacancy and the strong candidates recommended by Senators Warner and Kaine for appointment to this position, I strongly urge you to appoint Judge Allen, an eminently qualified individual, to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Donald McEachin".

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress